



## **Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Committee**

**Tuesday, November 29, 2010 · 10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**

**Hilton \* Union Square, 333 O'Farrell Street, San Francisco, CA  
Imperial Ballroom A, Ballroom Level**

### **AGENDA**

Supervisor, Richard Forster, Amador County, Chair  
Supervisor Kim Vann, Colusa County, Vice-Chair

- 10:00 a.m.            **I.      Welcome and Introductions**  
*Supervisor Richard Forster, Amador County, Chair*
- 10:05 . 11:15 a.m.   **II.     PANEL DISCUSSION: Challenges & Opportunities:  
Siting Renewable Energy Facilities**
- *Tim Snellings, Development Services Director, Butte County*
  - *David Morrison, Assistant Director, Yolo County Planning & Public Works*
  - *Sandy Goldberg, Senior Counsel, Governor's Office of Planning & Research*
  - *John Gamper, California Farm Bureau Federation*
  - *Mark Nelson, Director of Generation Planning & Strategy, Southern California Edison*
- 11:15 - 11:25 a.m.   **III.    CAL FIRE Director's Report: SRA Fee Update and Priorities  
For 2012**
- Ken Pimlott, CAL FIRE, Director*  
ATTACHMENT: SRA FEE MEMO
- 11:25 -11:40 a.m.   **IV.    What the Future Holds for California State & County Fairs:  
Obstacles and Opportunities**
- Rebecca Desmond, Director, California Division of Fairs & Expositions*
- 11:40 a.m.            **V.      Closing Comments & Adjournment**



November 10, 2011

1100 K Street  
Suite 101  
Sacramento  
California  
95814

Telephone  
916.327-7500  
Facsimile  
916.441.5507

To: CSAC Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee  
From: Karen Keene, CSAC Senior Legislative Representative  
Cara Martinson, CSAC Senior Legislative

**Re: State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Benefit Fee**

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On November 10, 2011, the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) adopted emergency regulations implementing the State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Benefit Fees as directed by AB 29 X1 (Chapter 8, 2011). The version adopted by the Board differs from the initial emergency regulation that was adopted by the Board in August 22, but was never transmitted to Office of Administrative Law for final clearance. The newly adopted regulations impose a \$150 benefit fee per habitable structure and include a \$35 discount for habitable structures that are within the boundaries of a local agency that provides fire protection services. Regarding multi-dwelling unit structures, the regulations impose a fee of \$150 for the first dwelling unit and an additional \$25 for each additional dwelling unit in the multi-dwelling unit structure.

One other significant difference between the August 22 regulations and those adopted on November 10th is the broader definition of %habitable structure+, which brings non-residential structures, including county-owned buildings/structures into the fold. Specifically, residential structures, such as single family homes, multi-dwelling structures, and mobile homes, would be subject to the fee as would buildings occupied for non-residential uses such as office buildings, stores, hospitals, clinics, medical centers, libraries, and government buildings, including jails.

The Board will submit the revised emergency regulations to the Office of Administrative Law, which has five days to review and file. Once filed, these regulations are good for 180 days, during which time the Board must develop and adopt permanent regulations. The permanent regulatory process includes a 45-day public notice period and greater opportunity for public input into the process.

CSAC opposed AB 29X1 and continues to argue that SRA fees have longstanding issues that present legal and administrative challenges to the State. CSAC is concerned with the impact of the SRA fee on the State's comprehensive mutual aid system, and its potential impacts on the current structure of fire protection within the SRA. Many landowners have already agreed to assess themselves for the purposes of fire protection/prevention. This new fee would result in double taxation without any additional benefit, and would make the probability of passing a new or additional local assessment for fire protection/prevention services within the SRA slim to none. The emergency regulation may be viewed on the Board's website at: <http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov>.

Please contact Karen Keene, CSAC Senior Legislative Representative at 916-327-7500 ext. 511, or [kkeene@counties.org](mailto:kkeene@counties.org), or Cara Martinson, CSAC Senior Legislative Analyst at 916-327-7500, ext. 504, or [cmartinson@counties.org](mailto:cmartinson@counties.org) if you have additional questions.